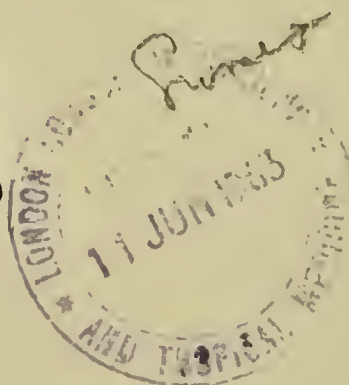
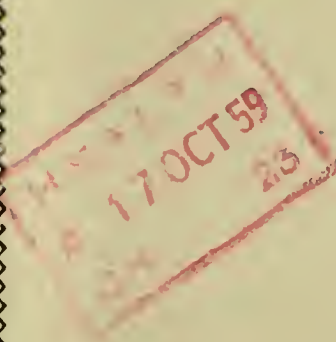


4414105

YMA O'Hara 515.
2) library

RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1958

M. I. SILVERTON,
O.B.E., T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

5

RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1958

M. I. SILVERTON,
O.B.E., T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

INDEX

| | |
|---|----|
| Ambulance Service | 22 |
| Births and Birth Rates.. .. . | 5 |
| Cesspool Emptying Service | 37 |
| Collection and Salvage of House Refuse | 38 |
| Comparative Statistics | 11 |
| Deaths and Death Rates | 6 |
| Deaths—65 Years of Age and Over | 8 |
| Deaths—Detailed Causes | 6 |
| Factories Act, 1937 | 47 |
| Food | 26 |
| General Provision of Health Services in the Area | 22 |
| Home Physiotherapy Service | 25 |
| Hospitals | 23 |
| Housing | 39 |
| Housing Act, 1949. Improvement Grants | 42 |
| Housing Provided by Local Authority | 43 |
| Immunisation Service | 17 |
| Industries | 46 |
| Infant Welfare Centres | 21 |
| Infectious Diseases in Age Groups | 14 |
| Infectious Diseases—Incidence | 11 |
| Infectious Diseases—Distribution in Parishes | 15 |
| Infectious Diseases—Ministry of Education Recommendations re exclusion | 16 |
| Infectious Diseases—Seasonal Incidence | 14 |
| Inspection of Meat and Other Foods | 28 |
| Litter Act, 1958.. .. . | 39 |
| Lung Cancer, Bronchitis and Smoking | 8 |
| Mass Miniature Radiography | 10 |
| Meteorology | 49 |
| Milk Production | 29 |
| Moveable Dwellings | 45 |
| National Assistance Act, 1948 | 25 |
| National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children | 25 |
| New Dwellings | 44 |
| Pet Animals Act, 1951 | 48 |
| Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949 | 47 |
| Public Conveniences | 39 |
| Public Health Act, 1936, and Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957 | 40 |
| Public Health Laboratory Service | 24 |
| Rent Act, 1957 | 43 |
| Sewerage and Sewage Disposal | 37 |
| Summary of Birth and Death Rates | 7 |
| Tuberculosis | 8 |
| Vaccination | 20 |
| Visits of Public Health Inspectors during 1957 | 45 |
| Water—Distribution of Piped Supplies in Parishes | 34 |
| Water Samples | 35 |
| Water Supply—General | 30 |
| Water Supply—New Schemes and Extensions | 33 |
| Water Supply—Schools | 36 |

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BATTLE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(constitution at 31st December, 1958)

Chairman:

THE HON. E. DAPHNE COURTHOPE

Vice-Chairman:

MR. Q. LLOYD

MR. H. M. HORSLEY (Chairman of the Council)

MR. P. G. ARMITAGE, J.P.

MR. J. W. CASE

COLONEL E. A. CRANE

MR. D. W. CREW

MR. F. GEARY

MRS. M. MERRICKS

MR. D. G. C. SPENCE

MRS. E. WOODGATE

MR. E. WOLLARD

DR. J. R. WRIGHT, T.D., J.P.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

M. I. SILVERTON, O.B.E., T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. T. DUNFORD, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:

R. E. BRIGGS, D.P.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

Public Health Inspectors:

G. J. Allen, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert. (to 31st March, 1958)

F. B. Elliott, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert.

R. D. Brown, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Foods Cert. (from 12th May, 1958)

Chief Clerk:

Miss M. E. Portnell

**Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination Clerk:*

Miss M. H. Hearnshaw

Shorthand-Typists and General Clerks:

Mrs. W. R. Edwards

C. W. Field

Rat Catcher:

R. Elliott

*County Staff employed locally

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

The statistics reveal that the health of the District compares favourably with the rest of England and Wales.

The greatest and most heartening progress was made in securing piped water supplies for an increasing proportion of the population.

A landmark was the completion of the Sedlescombe Water Scheme which was officially opened by Mr. B. Godman Irvine, M.P. (Rye Division) on the 22nd October, 1958, and the subsequent closure of the Sedlescombe Village Well, a polluted source.

Only one school remains on delivered water, whereas in my Annual Report of 1951 I refer to 15 schools without piped supplies. The increased number of council house connections during the current year is also worthy of note.

Towards the end of the year the economic horizon brightened and the Council were once more able to make plans for improving the amenities of this very lovely countryside.

Mr. Dunford (Chief Public Health Inspector) and the Public Health Inspectors have given me their loyal support and I would like to express my thanks to them and the Clerical Staff under the able direction of Miss Portnell (Chief Clerk) for the help they have given to me during the past year.

This will be the last full year that I shall report on the Diphtheria Immunisation Service as despite the good response obtained by the delegation of this duty it is to be administered centrally by the County Medical Officer at Lewes. This Council was unanimous in its wish that delegation should remain, but the County Council felt that they could introduce economies if centrally administered, and in addition, not fall below the present acceptance rate. One sincerely hopes that the numbers protected will not drop and that this dread disease will continue to be kept at bay. The success of the Immunisation Campaign owes much to the careful work of the local Immunisation Clerk (Miss Hearnshaw).

I am obliged to the Clerk of the Council and other Chief Officers for their co-operation at all times.

I am grateful to the Councillors, and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, for their stimulating interest and support.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. I. SILVERTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Watch Oak,
Battle, Sussex.

Telephone: Battle 214-217.

STATISTICS RELATING TO BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

| | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Area of district in acres (estimated) | 117,147 | 117,147 | 117,147 | 117,147 |
| Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year) | 29,850 | 29,810 | 29,680 | 29,630 |
| Rateable value | £235,111 (31.12.55) | £342,953 (31.12.56) | £337,043 (31.12.57) | £340,413 (31.12.58) |
| Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated) | £928 | £1,355 | £1,305 | £1,325 |
| Number of rateable pre- mises at 1st April .. | 12,004 | 11,938 | 12,096 | 12,187 |

The decrease in the Penny Rate between 1956 and 1957 was due to the re-assessment of business premises.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES

| | Battle R.D. | England and Wales |
|---|----------------|----------------------|
| Live birth rate per 1,000 home population (crude) | 11.54 | 16.4 |
| *Corrected birth rate | 13.61 | |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 births (live and still) .. | 8.69 | 21.6 |
| Still birth rate per 1,000 home population .. | 0.1 | 0.36 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| <i>Live Births:</i> | Male | Female | Total |
| Legitimate | 159 | 168 | 327 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| | 164 | 178 | 342 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|
| <i>Still Births:</i> | | | |
| Legitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 2 | 1 | 3 |

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

| | <i>Battle R.D.</i> | <i>England and Wales</i> |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Death rate per 1,000 of resident population (Crude) | 14.64 | 11.7 |
| *Corrected death rate | 9.95 | |
| Deaths of infants under 4 weeks | 2 | 11,969 |
| Death rate of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births | 5.84 | 16.2 |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year | 3 | 16,684 |
| Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births | 8.77 | 22.6 |
| Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births | Nil | 0.42 |

*The birth and death rates are "Corrected" in order to be comparable with those for England and Wales

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Tuberculosis, other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Syphilitic disease | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasms | 41 | 31 | 72 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Diabetes | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 23 | 43 | 66 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 36 | 29 | 65 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Other heart disease | 32 | 57 | 89 |
| Other circulatory disease | 5 | 12 | 17 |
| Influenza | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Pneumonia | 12 | 9 | 21 |
| Bronchitis | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Other diseases of the respiratory system | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Congenital malformations | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other defined or ill-defined diseases | 15 | 18 | 33 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| All other accidents | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Suicide | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | 209 | 225 | 434 |

It is most satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from tuberculosis other than respiratory. This must, in the main, be attributed to the eradication of bovine tuberculosis from milk, although recently introduced therapeutic measures have played their part.

SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES, 1949-1958

| Year | Esti- mated popula- tion | Total live births | | | Corr- ected Birth rate | Birth rate Eng. & W. | Total deaths | | | Corr- ected death rate | Death rate Eng. & W. | Natu- ral de- crease |
|------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | M | F | Total | | | M | F | Total | | | |
| 1949 | 30,130 | 226 | 206 | 432 | 14.3 | 16.7 | 220 | 214 | 434 | 10.5 | 11.7 | - 2 |
| 1950 | 29,910 | 208 | 203 | 411 | 15.8 | 15.8 | 213 | 215 | 428 | 10.2 | 11.6 | - 17 |
| 1951 | 29,960 | 215 | 176 | 391 | 15.0 | 15.5 | 220 | 215 | 435 | 10.4 | 12.5 | - 44 |
| 1952 | 29,770 | 186 | 184 | 370 | 14.2 | 15.3 | 184 | 210 | 394 | 9.5 | 11.3 | - 24 |
| 1953 | 29,700 | 189 | 190 | 379 | 14.6 | 15.5 | 203 | 225 | 428 | 10.3 | 11.4 | - 49 |
| 1954 | 29,780 | 202 | 177 | 379 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 221 | 223 | 444 | 10.4 | 11.3 | - 65 |
| 1955 | 29,850 | 204 | 159 | 363 | 14.3 | 15.0 | 221 | 210 | 431 | 9.8 | 11.7 | - 68 |
| 1956 | 29,810 | 180 | 193 | 373 | 14.7 | 15.6 | 214 | 225 | 439 | 10.3 | 11.7 | - 66 |
| 1957 | 29,680 | 188 | 167 | 355 | 14.1 | 16.1 | 258 | 232 | 490 | 11.7 | 11.5 | -135 |
| 1958 | 29,630 | 164 | 178 | 342 | 13.6 | 16.4 | 209 | 225 | 434 | 9.9 | 11.7 | - 92 |

The Corrected Birth and Death Rates pays due regard to the increased proportion of aged retired people within the District as compared with England and Wales.

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES AND
RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION

| | | | | | Battle R.D. | | England and Wales | |
|---|----|----|----|----|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | No. of Deaths | Per 1,000 pop. | No. of Deaths | Per 1,000 pop. |
| Tuberculosis (respiratory) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 0.10 | 4,000 | 0.10 |
| Tuberculosis (other) | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | 480 | |
| Influenza .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 0.20 | 2,402 | 0.05 |
| Bronchitis .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14 | 0.47 | 29,392 | 0.65 |
| Pneumonia .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 21 | 0.70 | 24,577 | 0.54 |
| Poliomyelitis .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | 130 | 0.00 |
| Coronary and arteriosclerotic heart disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65 | 2.19 | 84,048 | 1.86 |
| Cancer of the lung, trachea and bronchus | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 0.40 | 19,809 | 0.44 |
| Motor vehicle accidents .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 0.03 | 5,438 | 0.12 |

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

| | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system .. | 174 (40.3%) | 184 (41.9%) | 194 (39.5%) | 184 (42.7%) |
| *(Coronary disease) .. | 59 (13.6%) | 55 (12.5%) | 62 (12.6%) | 65 (15.0%) |
| (ii) Malignant neoplasms (cancer) | 78 (18.1%) | 62 (14.1%) | 88 (17.9%) | 72 (16.6%) |
| (Cancer of lung and bronchus) | 11 (2.5%) | 10 (2.2%) | 11 (2.2%) | 12 (2.7%) |
| (iii) Vascular lesions of the nervous system .. | 60 (13.9%) | 64 (14.5%) | 77 (15.7%) | 66 (15.2%) |
| (iv) Respiratory diseases (ex- cluding tuberculosis) .. | 38 (8.8%) | 36 (8.1%) | 26 (5.3%) | 41 (9.4%) |

*Coronary disease—Research has not revealed a definite cause but it would appear that increased girth and lack of exercise accentuated by the advent of the motor car, particularly related to the professional and business executive classes, are important contributory factors. Deaths from coronary heart disease in England and Wales are still mounting: 70,597 in 1955; 74,790 in 1956; 76,321 in 1957; and 84,048 in 1958.

DEATHS—65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

| | Bath R.D. | | | London * | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|----------|--------|--------|
| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
| Total deaths .. | 439 | 490 | 434 | 38,317 | 37,078 | 38,026 |
| Number of deaths 65 years and over .. | 343 | 369 | 336 | 26,239 | 24,717 | 25,870 |
| Percentage of total deaths | 78.9 | 75.3 | 77.4 | 68.4 | 66.9 | 68.0 |

* England and Wales not available

LUNG CANCER, BRONCHITIS AND SMOKING

Lung Cancer Deaths in England and Wales

| | |
|------------|--------|
| 1930 | 1,489 |
| 1957 | 19,127 |
| 1958 | 19,809 |

Bronchitis Deaths in England and Wales

| | |
|------------|--------|
| 1930 | 19,125 |
| 1957 | 26,930 |
| 1958 | 29,392 |

The figures of deaths from these causes are mounting.

Smoking is considered to be a potent factor in this increase, but there may be other contributory causes emanating from increased pollution of the atmosphere by the internal combustion engine (petrol and diesel) and industrial waste gasses. These latter factors accentuate the severity of bronchitic conditions but have not definitely been accepted as factors in the causation of lung cancer.

TUBERCULOSIS

| | Pulmonary Cases | | | Non-Pulmonary Cases | | | Total Cases (all forms) | | |
|--|-----------------|----|-------|---------------------|----|-------|-------------------------|----|-------|
| | M | F | Total | M | F | Total | M | F | Total |
| 1. No. on Register at 1st January, 1958 .. | 59 | 60 | 119 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 67 | 70 | 137 |
| 2. Cases previously removed and re-notified in 1958 .. | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| 3. Primary notifications received in 1958 .. | 10 | 5 | 15 | — | 1 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| 4. Cases moved into area as transfers .. | 5 | 6 | 11 | — | — | — | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Totals | 74 | 74 | 148 | 8 | 11 | 19 | 82 | 85 | 167 |
| 5. Cases removed from Register in 1958 .. | 4 | 5 | 9 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 6. Number on Register at 31st December, 1958 | 70 | 69 | 139 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 78 | 79 | 157 |

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER — COMPARISON WITH 1957

| | 1957 Total Cases (all forms) | | | 1958 Total Cases (all forms) | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----|-------|------------------------------------|----|-------|
| | M | F | Total | M | F | Total |
| 1. Number on Register at 1st Jan. | 59 | 58 | 117 | 67 | 70 | 137 |
| 2. Cases previously removed and re-notified during year .. | 2 | — | 2 | — | 3 | 3 |
| 3. Primary notifications received during year | 15 | 8 | 23 | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| 4. Cases moved into area as transfers | 2 | 9 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Totals | 78 | 75 | 153 | 82 | 85 | 167 |
| 5. Cases removed from Register during year | 11 | 5 | 16 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 6. Number on Register at 31st Dec. | 67 | 70 | 137 | 78 | 79 | 157 |

ANALYSIS OF REMOVALS IN 1958

| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Total Cases (all forms) | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|----------------------------|---|-------|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | Total |
| Left District | 3 | 3 | — | — | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Cured | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Died* | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Totals | 4 | 5 | — | 1 | 4 | 6 | 10 |

*One registered female case of pulmonary tuberculosis died from causes other than tuberculosis. One male case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified after death.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED GIVING AGE GROUPS, OCCUPATIONS AND HOUSING STATES

| Age | | NEW CASES (Primary Notifications) | | | | Occupations | Housing |
|------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|--|--|---------|
| | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| M | F | M | F | | | | |
| 0- 2 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 3- 5 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 6-10 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 11-15 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 16-25 .. | 5 | 1 | — | — | Farm worker Poultry farmer Student Ex-R.A.F. Shop assistant Farm worker | Tied cottage Owner occupier Theological college Owner occupier (parent) Tenant (parent) Agricultural hostel | |
| 26-35 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 36-45 .. | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | Gypsum miner Housewife Lorry driver Housewife Telegraphist Housewife | Council house Council house Council house Council house Estate house (parent) Tenant | |
| 46-60 .. | 2 | — | — | — | Rail ganger Farmer | Council house Owner occupier | |
| Over 60 .. | 1 | 1 | — | — | Housewife Retired | Flat over shop Tenant | |

By arrangement with the Chest Physician, living conditions considered to be doubtful were inspected and remedied where possible.

Deaths related to pulmonary tuberculosis were 1 male and 2 females, all over 60 years of age.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

This infective disease can be eradicated if local unknown reservoirs of infection are eliminated. Mass Miniature Radiography is a potent preventive measure designed to diagnose the early case before spread takes place. Parents and grandparents may be the unwitting agents in infecting their children and workmates, and they have an obligation to make sure that they are free from infection. All adults should therefore take advantage of this service when it makes its periodic visit.

Chronic coughs, whether in the aged or the young, are suspect and Mass Miniature Radiography will give the answer.

The results of surveys carried out in 1958 are shown below:

| Parish | Number of Persons X-rayed | | | Approximate Population | Percentage of Population X-rayed |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | | |
| Hurst Green .. | 81 | 96 | 177 | 760 | 23.2 |
| Robertsbridge .. | 334 | 285 | 619 | 1,521 | 40.7 |
| Ticehurst .. | 110 | 163 | 273 | 2,385 | 11.4 |

Number of persons recalled for large films 61

Total number of persons attending for large films found
to have abnormalities 10

It is disquieting to note how few people in these areas availed themselves of the opportunity of a free health check-up.

Mass Miniature Radiography not only discloses early tuberculosis lesions but other abnormal conditions in the heart and lungs which may be amenable to treatment.

As in all health investigations it is vitally important to treat any deviation from health as soon as possible; early discovery makes successful treatment more likely.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1953-1958 1st JANUARY-31st DECEMBER

| | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Acute poliomyelitis | 7 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | — |
| Measles | 1,051 | 5 | 243 | 105 | 184 | 397 |
| Scarlet fever | 29 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 20 |
| Meningococcal infection | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Whooping cough | 214 | 129 | 106 | 89 | 80 | 113 |
| Acute pneumonia | 29 | 23 | 32 | 20 | 27 | 15 |
| Erysipelas | 3 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| Puerperal pyrexia | — | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Dysentery | — | 21 | — | 14 | 1 | — |
| Food poisoning | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Acute encephalitis | 1 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Typhoid | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Malaria | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |

Poliomyelitis

It is very heartening to record that there were no cases of poliomyelitis in this district during 1958.

One hopes that this is the result of vaccination but it is too early to come to a definite conclusion. The numbers being vaccinated are not high enough.

Measles

Contrary to expectations, measles was widespread within the district, November and December accounting for the majority of the cases and the school children bore the brunt.

Fortunately there were no complications necessitating admission to hospital.

Over 90% of the population have suffered from this infection and it is always less severe in the younger age groups. Measles in an adult can be quite serious, apart from the loss of working days.

Whooping Cough

This continued to be notified, but diagnosis is difficult. No complications of note were recorded.

The Immunisation Campaign is having a definite effect in lessening the severity of attacks in those who having been immunised are still susceptible in a minor degree.

Scarlet Fever

Mild in character and of no special significance, the usual investigations were made in each case regarding the possibility of food handlers being involved, and where indicated, alternative work was advised and accepted.

Dysentery*

(a) One un-notified case of *Shigella flexneri* type Z was discovered, 6th July, 1958, in a child *aet* 4 years, because of a complaint by the parent direct to the Public Health Department.

The General Practitioner concerned was advised, and all members of the family and those at risk were sampled with negative results. The cause was not discovered and eventually three negative specimens were obtained.

(b) The Head Teacher of a small village Primary School notified me of a high incidence of diarrhoea on 9th July.

No pathological organisms were discovered on sampling the teaching and cooking staff, but one pupil *aet* 10 years, was found to be excreting *Shigella flexneri* type Z.

The patient's private doctor was advised, and all members of her family and those at risk were sampled with negative results. The cause was not discovered and eventually three negative specimens were obtained.

Food Poisoning*

Two unrelated cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Full investigations were carried out with negative results.

*The patients who suffered from dysentery or food poisoning, and their immediate contacts, were warned regarding the necessary hygienic measures.

Haemolytic streptococci at a Residential Preparatory School

A private School Doctor requested help owing to continuing sore throats accompanied by pyrexia. All pupils and staff (101) were swabbed (nose and throat), ten were found to be carriers of Group A Haemolytic streptococci, and by arrangement these were sent home on 9th December, 1958. The general practitioners of the children concerned were notified by the School Doctor.

Blankets, etc., were disinfected.

Influenza

Unlike 1957 there was no evidence of any widespread influenza epidemic.

There were a number of localised outbreaks of respiratory infection at the end of January but no marked rise in notifications of death from influenza.

Measles, Mumps and Scarlet Fever

It is interesting to record that one boy *aet* 5 years was notified on 25th December, 1958, as measles; 30th January, 1959, he had an attack of mumps; and on 1st February, 1959, scarlet fever, with no complications throughout.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

| | Under 1 year | 1-2 years | 3-4 years | 5-9 years | 10-14 years | 15-24 years | 25-44 years | 45-64 years | 65 and over | Totals |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Scarlet fever .. | — | 1 | — | 15 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | 20 |
| Whooping cough .. | 4 | 9 | 20 | 66 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | 113 |
| Measles .. | 7 | 32 | 54 | 202 | 89 | 10 | 3 | — | — | 397 |
| Acute pneumonia .. | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 15 |
| Erysipelas .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Food poisoning | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Puerperal pyrexia .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Acute encephalitis | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Totals .. | 11 | 42 | 76 | 286 | 100 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 555 |

SEASONAL INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Totals |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|-------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
| Scarlet fever .. | — | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| Whooping cough | 15 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 11 | 13 | 113 |
| Measles .. | — | 5 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 5 | 42 | 35 | 30 | 108 | 108 | 397 |
| Acute pneumonia | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 15 |
| Erysipelas .. | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4 |
| Food poisoning .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Puerperal pyrexia .. | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Acute encephalitis .. | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Totals .. | 18 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 17 | 21 | 14 | 45 | 41 | 32 | 123 | 185 | 555 |

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PARISHES

| | | Measles | Whooping cough | Scarlet fever | Acute pneumonia | Erysipelas | Food poisoning | Puerperal pyrexia | Acute encephalitis |
|----------------------|-----|---------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ashburnham | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Battle | 6 | 6 | 4 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Beckley | 2 | 10 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bodiam | 66 | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Brede | 5 | 12 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Brightling | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Burwash | 66 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Camber | 24 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Catsfield | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Crowhurst | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dallington | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| East Guldeford | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Etchingham | 33 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ewhurst | 57 | 8 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fairlight | 1 | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Guestling | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hurst Green | 11 | 7 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Icklesham | 24 | 6 | 2 | 5 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Iden | 13 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mountfield | 2 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Northiam | 16 | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Peasmarsh | 31 | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Penhurst | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pett | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Playden | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Rye Foreign | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Salehurst | 15 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sedlescombe | — | 8 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Ticehurst | 12 | 10 | — | 4 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Udimore | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Westfield | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whatlington | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 397 | 113 | 20 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | |

PERIOD OF EXCLUSION IN CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

| | Usual Incubation period (days) | Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days) | Period of exclusion | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | | <i>Patients</i> | <i>Contacts</i> , i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement. |
| SCARLET FEVER AND STREPTOCOCCAL SORE THROAT | 1-7 | 1-2 | Exclude from school for 7 days after discharge from hospital or home isolation. Not allowed back if discharge from the nose or ear, sore throat or septic spots be present. | Adult contacts engaged in school meals service excluded until Medical Officer of Health allows return to work. Other contacts, if healthy, need not be excluded. |
| DIPHThERIA | 2-7 | — | Until pronounced by a medical practitioner to be free from infection. | At least 7 days. Return to school should not be permitted until bacteriological examination has proved negative. |
| MEASLES | 7-14 | 3-4 | 10 days after the appearance of the rash if the child appears well. | Children under 5 years of age who have not had the disease should be excluded for 14 days from the date of the appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contact suffering from a cough, cold, chill or red eyes should be immediately excluded. |
| GERMAN MEASLES | 5-21 | 0-2 | 7 days from the appearance of the rash. | None. |
| WHOOPING COUGH | 6-18 | — | 28 days from the beginning of the characteristic cough. | Children under 7 years who have not had the disease should be excluded for 21 days from the date of onset of the disease in the last case in the house. |
| MUMPS | 12-28 | — | 7 days from the subsidence of the swelling. | None. |
| CHICKEN POX | 11-21 | 0-2 | 14 days from the date of appearance of the rash. | None. |

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS—*continued*

| | Usual Incubation period (days) | Interval between onset and appearance of rash (days) | Period of exclusion | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | <i>Patients</i> | <i>Contacts</i> , i.e. the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement. |
| INFLUENZA AND THE COMMON COLD | 1-2 | — | Exclude immediately for 7 days or until recovery is complete. | None. |
| RINGWORM OF THE BODY (including ATHLETE'S FOOT) | If the infected area can be kept covered the patient need not be excluded. He should not, however, take part in swimming—nor in the case of ringworm of the feet—in gymnastic classes or barefoot dancing. | | | |

IMMUNISATION SERVICE

This district is enjoying the benefit of its locally administered immunisation campaign against diphtheria and I am happy to record that there have not been any cases of this dread disease during the past 13 years.

A review of the past ten years of the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign reveals that the percentage of children immunised in the 1 to 5 age groups shows a gradual but increasingly satisfactory rise, with a plateau from 1954 onwards, as per the accompanying table.

The comparable figure for 1958 in the 5 to 14 age group being 93.73%.

| <i>Year</i> | | | | | | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------|
| 1949 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 59.22 |
| 1950 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65.14 |
| 1951 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65.79 |
| 1952 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65.73 |
| 1953 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 74.04 |
| 1954 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 79.07 |
| 1955 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 78.36 |
| 1956 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 79.10 |
| 1957 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 80.64 |
| 1958 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 79.53 |

This is due to the undiminished vigour with which this campaign has been pursued.

The table given below is self-explanatory and indicates the benefits which have accrued in England and Wales.

| <i>Year</i> | | | | <i>Deaths</i> | <i>Corrected Notifications</i> |
|-------------|----|----|----|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1941 | .. | .. | .. | .. 2,641 | 50,797 |
| 1948 | .. | .. | .. | .. 156 | 3,575 |
| 1949 | .. | .. | .. | .. 84 | 1,890 |
| 1950 | .. | .. | .. | .. 49 | 962 |
| 1951 | .. | .. | .. | .. 33 | 664 |
| 1952 | .. | .. | .. | .. 32 | 376 |
| 1953 | .. | .. | .. | .. 23 | 266 |
| 1954 | .. | .. | .. | .. 9 | 173 |
| 1955 | .. | .. | .. | .. 13 | 155 |
| 1956 | .. | .. | .. | .. 8 | 53 |
| 1957 | .. | .. | .. | .. 6 | 39 |
| 1958 | .. | .. | .. | .. 8 | 78 |

166 clinics were held during 1958 (37 sessions).

Number of children who received injections in 1958:

Primary Immunisation:

| | | | <i>Under 1 yr.</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>2-4</i> | <i>5-9</i> | <i>10-14</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|----|----|--------------------|----------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Against | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | .. | .. | 2 | — | 1 | 23 | 7 | 33 |
| Diphtheria and whooping cough | .. | .. | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 6 |
| Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus | .. | .. | 233 | 41 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 294 |
| | | | 238 | 42 | 12 | 32 | 9 | 333 |

Reinforcing injections:

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Against | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | .. | .. | — | — | 65 | 235 | 545 | 845 |
| Diphtheria and whooping cough | .. | .. | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus | .. | .. | — | — | 7 | 19 | 23 | 49 |
| | | | — | — | 72 | 255 | 570 | 897 |

Totals—Under 5 292

5-14 (inc.) 41

Reinforcing 897

Total number of children under 15 years of age, resident in the area, who had been immunised by 31st December, 1958:

Under 5 years 1,302

5-14 (inc.) 4,264

5,566

Comparative figures for the past three years:

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Number immunised under 5 years | 1,314 | 1,354 | 1,302 |
| Child population (under 5) .. | 1,661 | 1,679 | 1,637 |
| Percentage of child population (under 5) | 79.10% | 80.64% | 79.53% |
| Number immunised (5-14, inc.) | 4,336 | 4,261 | 4,264 |
| Child population (5-14) | 4,655 | 4,590 | 4,549 |
| Percentage of child population (5-14) | 93.14% | 92.83% | 93.73% |

(population figures are estimated—the Registrar General is unable to supply them)

It is generally accepted that immunisations given more than five years previously confer a diminished immunity. The state of immunity of a child population at any given time is therefore more realistically given as the numbers immunised (primary or booster) within the previous five years. This figure is known as the Immunity Index.

Under

| | 1 yr. | 1-4 | 5-14 | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Immunity Index expressed (1956) | 41.17% | 83.43% | 67.45% | 70.51% |
| as a percentage of the (1957) | 40.54% | 85.60% | 70.54% | 73.24% |
| child population (1958) | 47.30% | 83.19% | 75.99% | 76.93% |

Diphtheria Immunisation percentages for Schools.

| School | No. on Register | No. Immunised | Percentage |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| Battle V.P. | 207 | 206 | 99.51 |
| Battle Secondary Modern (Claverham) . . | 421 | 410 | 97.38 |
| Beckley V.P. | 40 | 38 | 95.00 |
| Bodiam V.P. | 47 | 47 | 100.00 |
| Brede C.P. | 48 | 42 | 87.50 |
| Burwash V.P. | 114 | 105 | 92.10 |
| St. Philip's, Burwash Common | 49 | 46 | 93.87 |
| Catsfield V.P. | 54 | 51 | 94.44 |
| Crowhurst V.P. | 43 | 43 | 100.00 |
| Dallington V.P. | 64 | 61 | 95.31 |
| Etchingham V.P. | 29 | 28 | 96.55 |
| Ewhurst V.P. | 16 | 13 | 81.25 |
| Guestling V.P. | 112 | 106 | 94.64 |
| Hurst Green V.P. | 65 | 64 | 98.46 |
| Icklesham V.P. | 66 | 63 | 95.45 |
| Mountfield and Whatlington V.P. . . . | 94 | 87 | 92.55 |
| Netherfield V.P. | 100 | 94 | 94.00 |
| Northiam V.P. | 108 | 107 | 99.07 |
| Peasmarsh V.P. | 60 | 56 | 93.33 |
| Playden V.P. | 36 | 35 | 97.22 |
| Robertsbridge Secondary Modern . . . | 270 | 261 | 96.66 |
| Salehurst V.P. | 147 | 140 | 95.23 |
| Sedlescombe V.P. | 75 | 74 | 98.66 |
| Staplecross Methodist Primary | 55 | 52 | 94.54 |
| Stonegate V.P. | 46 | 46 | 100.00 |
| Ticehurst V.P. | 162 | 159 | 98.14 |
| Udimore C.P. | 37 | 35 | 94.59 |
| Westfield C.P. | 122 | 118 | 96.72 |
| Winchelsea V.P. | 59 | 59 | 100.00 |
| Attending private schools or schools outside the District | 2,746 | 2,646 | 96.35 |
| | 1,803 | 1,618 | 89.73 |

Comparative Percentages for the past three years:

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Attending County Council Schools | 96.43% | 96.04% | 96.35% |
| Attending private schools or schools outside the District | 88.00% | 87.77% | 89.73% |

INCIDENCE OF WHOOPING COUGH IN CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN IMMUNISED

| | 1954 | | | 1955 | | | 1956 | | | 1957 | | | 1958 | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Cases | Notified cases immunised | Immunisations performed | Cases | Notified cases immunised | Immunisations performed | Cases | Notified cases immunised | Immunisations performed | Cases | Notified cases immunised | Immunisations performed | Cases | Notified cases immunised | Immunisations performed |
| Under 1 year | 5 | — | 143 | 4 | 1 | 206 | 5 | 2 | 210 | 3 | — | 225 | 4 | — | 236 |
| 1- 2 .. | 24 | 1 | 91 | 18 | 6 | 107 | 14 | 8 | 81 | 8 | 4 | 63 | 9 | 6 | 53 |
| 3- 4 .. | 35 | — | 8 | 29 | 2 | — | 15 | 2 | — | 14 | 10 | — | 20 | 14 | — |
| 5- 9 .. | 58 | 1 | 9 | 44 | 2 | 13 | 48 | 3 | 5 | 47 | 5 | 6 | 66 | 7 | 9 |
| 10-14 .. | 1 | — | — | 4 | — | — | 3 | — | — | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| Totals .. | 123 | 2 | 251 | 99 | 11 | 326 | 85 | 15 | 296 | 77 | 20 | 296 | 107 | 28 | 300 |

VACCINATION

The following persons were vaccinated in 1958:

| | Under 1 yr. | 1 | 2-4 | 5-14 | 15 or over | Total |
|--|-------------|----|-----|------|------------|-------|
| Primary vaccination .. | 233 | 16 | 17 | 8 | 15 | 289 |
| Re-vaccination .. | — | — | 8 | 38 | 118 | 164 |
| Travel abroad accounted for 16 primary vaccinations and 107 re-vaccinations. | | | | | | |
| Number of babies born in 1958 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 342 |
| Number of babies under 1 year vaccinated in 1958 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 233 |
| Percentage vaccinated in 1958 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 68.12 |

Comparison with previous years:

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Total primary vaccinations .. | 291 | 308 | 289 |
| Total re-vaccinations .. | 163 | 160 | 164 |
| Percentage of babies under 1 year vaccinated .. | 65.41 | 71.83 | 68.12 |

| | | | | | | <i>Percentage of babies under 1 year vaccinated</i> |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 1949 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25.46 |
| 1950 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 61.80 |
| 1951 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 62.66 |
| 1952 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 58.91 |
| 1953 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65.43 |
| 1954 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65.96 |
| 1955 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 64.46 |
| 1956 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65.41 |
| 1957 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 71.83 |
| 1958 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 68.12 |

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1958, states: "The smallpox infant vaccination rate has increased from an average of 36.8% of live births in the ten years 1937-1946 to 44.5% in 1958. While still not high enough, this rate represents a considerable record of achievement on the part of Local Health Authorities and General Practitioners."

Fortunately, our figures are much better than those given for England and Wales as a whole, but this is no reason for complacency.

The speed of air travel makes the likelihood of the introduction of smallpox an ever-present possibility. Parents are exhorted to make use of vaccination during the early months of their children's lives in order that they may achieve full protection as early as possible with the minimum of inconvenience.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

| <i>Name and address of Centre</i> | <i>Sessions</i> |
|--|--|
| BATTLE: Youth Centre | Fourth Tuesday in month. |
| BECKLEY: Parish Hall | First Tuesday in month. (Weighing sessions only) |
| BODIAM: Parish Room | Second Thursday in month. (Weighing sessions only) |
| BREDE and UDIMORE: The Hall, Broad Oak | Second Wednesday in month. (Weighing sessions only) |
| BURWASH: Congregational Hall .. | Fourth Thursday in month. |
| ETCHINGHAM: Village Hall .. | First Thursday in month. (Weighing sessions only) |
| FLIMWELL: Village Hall | Fourth Tuesday in month. |
| HURST GREEN: Village Hall .. | Second Tuesday in month. |
| ICKLESHAM: Village Hall .. | Second Friday in month. |
| NORTHIAM: Women's Institute Hall | Third Tuesday in month. |
| PEASMARSH: Memorial Hall .. | First Friday in month. |
| ROBERTSBRIDGE: The Institute, Station Road .. | First and Third Tuesdays in month. |
| SEDLSCOMBE: Village Hall .. | First Thursday in month. |
| TICEHURST: Institute Hall .. | First Wednesday in month. |
| WESTFIELD: Church Hall .. | Third Tuesday in month. |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL UNDER THE
AEGIS OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**(i) Ambulance Service*

| | | 1956 | | 1957 | | 1958 | |
|------------|----|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | | Cases | Mileage | Cases | Mileage | Cases | Mileage |
| Illness .. | .. | 533 | 18,020 | 752 | 26,419 | 854 | 25,459 |
| Accidents | .. | 169 | | 193 | | 177 | |

The Battle Branch of St. John Ambulance Brigade is staffed by three full-time members with two ambulances in premises provided by the East Sussex County Council. They give a first-class service.

(ii) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under School Age

(iii) Contraceptive Advice

Subject to the limitation that advice is only given where pregnancy or childbirth is liable to be injurious to the health of the mother, arrangements are made for contraceptive advice to be given to married women at a clinic conducted by Hastings Corporation.

(iv) District Nurses (Midwives) and Health Visitors

(v) Home Help Service

(vi) Hospital Car Service

The Hospital Car Service in this county is provided by the joint organisation of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Area Transport Office for this district is at 8 Endwell Road, Bexhill-on-Sea (Telephone Bexhill 152).

(vii) Infant Welfare Centres

See list of Centres on page 21.

**(viii) Immunisation and Vaccination Service*

Please refer to pages 17 and 20.

(ix) Poliomyelitis Vaccination Service

In September, 1958, the vaccination offer was extended to those born in 1933 and persons at special risk, including expectant mothers. Booster injections were also made available.

Regular clinics are held as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1st Thursday in month | The Working Men's Club and Institute, ROBERTSBRIDGE 10.15 a.m. | The Youth Centre, Upper Lake, BATTLE 2 p.m. |
|--------------------------|---|--|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>3rd Monday in month</i> | The Further Education Centre, Lion Street, RYE (serving adjacent villages). 10.15 a.m. |
| <i>3rd Wednesday in month</i> | The Commemoration Hall, WADHURST. (Serving Ticehurst and adjacent villages.) 2.0 p.m. (tentative at the moment). |
| <i>1st Monday in month</i> | The Red Cross Hall, High Street, HEATHFIELD. (Serving Dallington and adjacent villages.) 2.0 p.m. |

(x) *B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children from 13 years.*

(xi) *Mental Health Service*

(xii) *Registration of Nursing Homes*

There are three efficiently-conducted registered Nursing Homes in this District. (31 beds available).

(xiii) *School Dental Service*

(xiv) *School Medical Service (*Routine medical examinations including the assessment of handicapped pupils)*

*Delegated duties to the District Medical Officer of Health, who also acts as School Medical Officer.

(b) HOSPITALS

The following are the main hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents in the Battle Rural District:

Darvell Hall Hospital, Robertsbridge.

Battle Hospital, Battle.

Memorial Hospital, Rye Foreign.

Isolation Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings (including V.D. Clinic).

Mount Pleasant Isolation Hospital, Hastings.

St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings.

Fernbank Maternity Nursing Home, Hastings.

Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

St. Mary's Hospital, Eastbourne.

Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne.

Gildredge Isolation Hospital, Eastbourne.

Bexhill Hospital, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Hellingly Hospital, Hellingly.

Pembury Hospital, Pembury.

Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Homoepathic Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Cottage Hospital, Hawkhurst.

Hill House, Rye Foreign.

Administered by the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through their respective Hospital Management Committees.

(c) PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

The Public Health Laboratory Service is a free national laboratory service designed to assist all those concerned in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. The benefits are not limited by health authority, hospital region or other administrative boundary. These facilities are available to all doctors, both for the submission of specimens and for consultation.

Gamma globulin, prepared from pooled plasma from normal healthy adults by the Lister Institute for the Ministry of Health, is distributed to doctors in England and Wales through laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Requests for supplies should be made to the director of the nearest laboratory of the Service. So far as supplies allow, it is issued for the protection of susceptible contacts of measles, rubella and poliomyelitis as shown below:

| <i>Disease</i> | <i>Available for</i> | <i>Usual Dosage Prevention</i> |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Measles | (i) Control of hospital and institutional outbreaks. | 3 years and over— 750 mg. |
| | (ii) Persons suffering from intercurrent illness or living in a poor environment for whom an attack of measles would be dangerous. | 1-2 years—500 mg. Under 1 year— 250 mg. |
| | (iii) Children under 3 years of age. | <i>Attenuation</i> 250 mg. (all ages) |
| Rubella | Women exposed to infection in the first four months of pregnancy | 1,500 mg. |
| | Protection is immediate providing no rash has appeared, and lasts 2-3 weeks, no side effects. Optimum prevention is up to first week after exposure. | |
| Polio- myelitis | (i) Nurses and medical students who are to be closely associated with the care of early cases and who so far as is known have not been in contact with the infection previously. It is intended that only one injection should be given and that prior to their going on the poliomyelitis wards. | 7 years and over— 1.5 g. 1-6 years—1.0 g. Under 1 year—500 mg. |
| | (ii) Babies in a hospital or maternity home exposed to infection soon after birth. | |

- (iii) Children in a hospital ward in which a case develops—especially children who have recently undergone tonsillectomy.

In addition, a small stock of gamma globulin prepared from the blood of persons recently vaccinated against smallpox is held for the treatment of cases of generalised vaccinia, accidental vaccinal infections endangering the eye and, in special circumstances, for the protection of unvaccinated smallpox contacts.

The address of the nearest laboratory is The Public Health Laboratory, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton (Telephone, Brighton 23506, Director—Doctor J. E. Jameson).

(d) NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

- (i) *Section 47: Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention*

Fortunately, I have been able to avoid using this Section.

- (ii) *Section 50: Burial or Cremation of the Dead.*
No action was necessary.

(e) HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

This Service fulfils a worthwhile function by allowing patients to be treated in the comfort of their own homes, a great boon to the elderly and generally incapacitated. Additionally, much tedious waiting at draughty bus stops is eliminated and the Ambulance Service mileage in taking patients to hospital clinics is much reduced.

The Physiotherapy Service relies for its continuance on the voluntary efforts of its Committees and the goodwill of the public in supplying the necessary income.

(f) NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

Liaison has been maintained with mutual benefit.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

98 inspections of food premises excluding slaughterhouses were made during the year. In general, a good standard of hygiene has been achieved, but in too many cases the lack of main water was a stumbling block. It would be unfair to insist on alternative, less efficient and costly methods of supply when main water is in the offing.

The Central Parishes water scheme, now well launched, should eliminate this difficulty within the foreseeable future.

One serious breach of the Regulations was committed when poultry was found being killed and dressed in part of an occupied chicken house; the general conditions were most insanitary. The offender immediately disposed of his stock and went out of business, so the Council decided not to prosecute.

A second, less serious case of non-compliance was resolved by the proprietor ceasing to sell food rather than face the expense of altering some poor premises.

Informal Notices were served in 14 cases and the necessary improvements were obtained in 11 cases by the end of the year. The inspectors continue to devote time to health education wherever possible, and full use is made of each inspection to explain and drive home the essentials of food hygiene to managers and staff, explanatory leaflets being left where applicable.

There are 402 food premises in the Rural District, made up as follows:

Retail shops

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Grocers or General Stores | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 123 |
| Milkshops | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Bakers and Confectioners | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| Butchers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29 |
| Greengrocers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Fishmongers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Sweets | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| <i>Bakeries</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Public Houses</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 78 |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <i>Hotels and Cafes</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 72 |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|

Schools

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| (a) Private | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| (b) East Sussex County Council | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28 |
| (c) E.S.C.C. Boarding | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| <i>Hospitals</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| <i>Nursing Homes</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| <i>Home for Aged</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| <i>Canteens (Industrial, etc.)</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|---|

Registered Food Premises

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Ice Cream

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|-----|
| No. of premises on Register at end of 1957 | .. | .. | .. | 135 |
| No. of premises registered during 1958 | .. | .. | .. | 5 |

Sausages

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|-----|
| No. of premises on Register at end of 1957 | .. | .. | .. | 22 |
| No. of premises registered during 1958 | .. | .. | .. | Nil |

Preserves (Jams, etc.)

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|-----|
| No. of premises on Register at end of 1957 | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| No. of premises registered during 1958 | .. | .. | .. | Nil |

Ice Cream

Registered food premises retailing ice cream, mainly sell the wrapped product. None is manufactured within the District.

Sausage Makers

Sausage making is mainly confined to butchers' shops. One small, suitably equipped and well conducted factory makes continental type sausages which are sold outside the rural district.

Inspections of Registered Food Premises

There were 18 inspections of registered food premises during the year.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned food is either taken away from the premises for disposal at the Council's refuse tips or rendered unsaleable by staining so that it may be salvaged for soap-making or other industrial processes. Food condemned in shops was mainly in tins and comprised fruit, vegetables, meat and milk. Retailers have co-operated well in submitting doubtful foods for examination by the public health inspectors.

Certificates are issued in respect of all food condemned and traders are enabled to claim refunds from wholesalers.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Food Found to be Unfit for Human Consumption

During the year the undermentioned foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Beef | 174 lb. | Tinned milk .. | 1 lb. |
| Pork | 20 lb. | Tinned meat .. | 64 lb. 6 oz. |
| Mutton | 142 lb. | Tinned vegetables | 62 lb. |
| Tinned fruit .. | 29 lb. 2 oz. | Miscellaneous .. | 6 lb. 7 oz. |

Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouses

| | <i>Carcase Meat</i> | <i>Offal</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Beef | 70 lb. | 81 lb. |
| Veal | 39 lb. | — |
| Mutton and lamb .. | 76 lb. | 47 lb. |
| Pork | 178 lb. | 74 lb. |

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

| | Beasts Exclud- ing Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|----------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed and inspected .. | 157 | — | 130 | 426 | 489 | — |
| <i>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci:</i> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 11 | — | 1 | 17 | 19 | — |
| % of number inspected affec- ted with disease | 7% | — | 1.5% | 4.4% | 3.9% | — |
| <i>Tuberculosis only:</i> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 2 | — | — | 1 | 6 | — |
| % of number inspected affec- ted with T.B. | 1.3% | — | — | 0.2% | 1.2% | — |
| <i>Cysticercosis:</i> | | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration .. | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally con- demned | — | — | — | — | — | — |

MILK PRODUCTION

The following is an estimate of the designated and non-designated farms in this Rural District:

| | 1956 | | 1957 | | 1958 | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | <i>Farms</i> | % | <i>Farms</i> | % | <i>Farms</i> | % |
| Tuberculin tested milk | 239 | 67.51 | 281 | 81.21 | 309 | 91.42 |
| Non-designated milk | 115 | 32.49 | 65 | 18.79 | 29 | 8.58 |

The production of Tuberculin Tested milk has continued to increase. I am reliably informed that most of this milk is pasteurised.

This is an important factor in the conservation of health within this District, there having been no deaths attributable to bovine tuberculosis during the past year.

Although Tuberculin Tested milk is considered by the layman to be safe and free from infection, this is not always borne out when samples have been submitted to the laboratory. From time to time actual cases of bovine tuberculosis do appear in the best conducted herds and it may be some time before the case is discovered, in the interim the public, and in particular young children, are being exposed to the possibility of disease. It must be remembered that in drinking raw milk one is imbibing the natural secretion of an animal who may at any time become the victim of disease. Pasteurised milk will eliminate this element of danger without affecting the nutritive properties and must therefore be considered to be the only safe milk.

SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS:

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Number of samples taken | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29 |
| Number negative for Tubercle Bacilli | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29 |
| Number positive for Brucella Mellitensis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |

A bulk sample taken from a Tuberculin Tested herd revealed the presence of Brucella Mellitensis. The offending animals were taken out of the herd by informal arrangement with the owner who was most co-operative. Continued sampling of this herd has revealed other carriers, and these have been similarly treated. The herd in question is being kept under close surveillance.

This finding once more serves to emphasise that raw milk, whether Tuberculin Tested or non-designated, can be a vehicle for other diseases in addition to tuberculosis.

DETAILS OF REGISTRATIONS AND LICENCES GRANTED DURING 1958:

(1) *Registrations:*

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| (a) Milk distributors | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| (b) Dairy premises (other than dairy farms) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| (c) Shops selling milk | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |

(2) *Licences granted under:*(a) *The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953:*

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| (i) Dealers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26 |
| (ii) Supplementary | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

(b) *The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954:*

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| (i) Dealers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 21 |
| (ii) Supplementary | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |

WATER SUPPLY

There are five Statutory Water Undertakings within the District:

| <i>Undertaking</i> | <i>Parishes</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Battle Rural District Council | Battle, part of Brightling, part of Crowhurst, Ewhurst, Mountfield, Iden, Playden, Rye Foreign and part of Peasmarsh, Sedlescombe, Whatlington. |
| Hastings Corporation | Parts of Westfield, Guestling, Pett and Fairlight; Icklesham including Winchelsea Town, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour; Camber; Brede and Udimore. |
| Heathfield and District Water Co. .. | Burwash, part of Brightling, Dallington, Etchingham, Hurst Green, Salehurst, Bodiam and Ticehurst. |
| Mid-Kent Water Company | Northiam. |
| Bexhill Corporation | Ashburnham, Catsfield and part of Crowhurst. |

Rye Borough Corporation supplies water to Rye Foreign, Iden and Playden by arrangement with the Statutory Undertakers.

Personnel of the Water Engineer's Department are blood-tested on appointment and reviewed when indicated in order to eliminate the possibility of a carrier state with consequent pollution of the water supply. This is arranged with the helpful co-operation of the Pathologist of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

All new employees of the Heathfield and District Water Company are similarly blood-tested.

Other Piped Supplies

TOOT ROCK, PETT LEVEL

This privately-owned supply serves 54 houses in the Pett Level area only.

Regular surveillance is necessary in view of the reliance placed upon efficient treatment to produce a pure water supply.

FAIRLIGHT COVE ESTATE WATER COMPANY.

This company supplies filtered and chlorinated water to 78 properties.

I have continued to indict this Water Undertaking in my past nine Annual Reports.

I submitted a detailed report which forms the basis of possible further action which I hope will lead to the elimination of this Undertaking.

The Council is fully aware of the potentially dangerous situation by the continuance of this supply.

WARREN ESTATE, FAIRLIGHT

Following the purchase of this Water Undertaking in 1957 and a requisition on Hastings Corporation for a supply, work commenced in October, 1958, on the laying of mains, etc.

FIREHILLS ESTATE WATER COMPANY, FAIRLIGHT

This Company restricts its filtered and chlorinated water supply to its own estate comprising 103 houses.

During 1958 there were many complaints of discoloured water and of breakdowns of supply. The Water Undertakers were informed and arranged to renew the filter media and overhaul the pumps; this work was completed in January, 1959.

This chlorinated supply has given good results bacteriologically, except after abnormal rain, which indicates the need for meticulous attention.

Chemical analyses reveal that the treatment plant is too limited in its scope and therefore the water is inefficiently treated as regards iron, manganese and high acid content.

SAMPLING OF PUBLIC SUPPLIES

The following table summarises the results of sampling public supplies:

| | Type | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Total |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| <i>(a) Samples taken by the Council:</i> | | | | |
| Toot Rock, Pett Level | Bacteriological | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Firehills Estate, Fairlight .. | Bacteriological | 13 | 4 | 17 |
| | Chemical and Bacteriological | — | 3 | 3 |
| Fairlight Cove Estate, Fairlight | Bacteriological | 19 | 11 | 30 |
| | Chemical and Bacteriological | — | 2 | 2 |
| <i>Battle Rural District Council:</i> | | | | |
| Battle Supply | Bacteriological | 8 | — | 8 |
| | Chemical and Bacteriological | 4 | — | 4 |
| Crowhurst Supply | Bacteriological | 1 | — | 1 |
| Peasmarsh Supply | Bacteriological | 8 | — | 8 |
| | Chemical and Bacteriological | 4 | — | 4 |
| Sedlescombe Supply | Bacteriological | 6 | — | 6 |
| | Chemical and Bacteriological | 3 | — | 3 |
| Staplecross Supply | Bacteriological | 2 | — | 2 |
| Hastings Corporation | Bacteriological | 13 | — | 13 |
| <i>(b) Reports received from Statutory Undertakings:</i> | | | | |
| Heathfield and District Water Company | Bacteriological | 10 | — | 10 |
| | Chemical and Bacteriological | 2 | — | 2 |
| Hastings Corporation | Bacteriological | 39 | — | 39 |
| Rye Corporation | Bacteriological | 1 | 1 | 2 |

SEDLSCOMBE WATER WORKS

An analysis of this new supply revealed a fluoride content of 0.5 ppm., although it is generally considered that the best concentration to afford the maximum prevention of dental decay without any risk of mottling of enamel is 1.0 ppm.

0.5 ppm. is appreciable and should be of real benefit in this respect.

The reduction of dental decay in young people when the fluoride content is 1.0 ppm. is judged to be about two-thirds, compared with the incidence applying to fluoride-free water, and it would appear that 0.5 ppm. should result in a reduction of the order of 50 per cent.

New Schemes and Extensions

CENTRAL PARISHES

EASTERN BRANCH MAINS SERVING SEDLESCOMBE, EWHURST (STAPLECROSS AND CRIPPS CORNER) were completed in April, 1958, and connections commenced.

WESTERN BRANCH MAINS (WHATLINGTON AND MOUNTFIELD).

Satisfactory progress reported, 50 % of the extension to Whatlington had been completed and the water tower at Mountfield was almost completed by the end of the year.

NORTH-EASTERN PARISHES (BECKLEY, AND PARTS OF NORTHIAM, PEASMARSH, IDEN, PLAYDEN, AND RYE FOREIGN)

This scheme was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in November, 1958.

BROAD OAK, BREDE.

This requisitioned supply from Hastings was completed in March, 1958.

BRIGHTLING AND DALLINGTON (HEATHFIELD AND DISTRICT WATER COMPANY).

Towards the end of 1958 at least 66 % of the properties in Brightling and 50 % in Dallington on the routes of the respective mains had been connected.

CROWHURST.

Swineham Lane extension completed in April, 1958.

WESTFIELD (KENT STREET AND MOAT LANE).

Completed in May, 1958.

EAST GULDEFORD.

In July, 1958, a requisition for a supply was made on Hastings Corporation.

MINOR WATER EXTENSIONS

Grateful thanks are due to Mr. R. P. Field (Surveyor) who has displayed much zeal and ingenuity in securing water supplies by branch mains to small groups of houses, the occupants of which, if not for his personal interest would still be using polluted sources.

REGROUPING OF WATER UNDERTAKINGS

Several meetings were held during the year between the interested Statutory Undertakers, Hastings Corporation, Bexhill Borough Council, Battle Rural District Council and Rye Borough Council.

DISTRIBUTION OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

| Parish | Domestic Properties Connected to the Main | | | | |
|---|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 |
| <i>Battle Rural District Council:</i> | | | | | |
| Battle | 1,509 | 1,489 | 1,450 | 1,398 | 1,398 |
| Brightling | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Crowhurst | 193 | 188 | 176 | 178 | 171 |
| Ewhurst | 115 | — | — | — | — |
| Iden | 73 | 71 | 50 | 2 | 2 |
| Mountfield | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Peasmarsh | 83 | 81 | 79 | 74 | 73 |
| Playden | 84 | 83 | 74 | 62 | 61 |
| Rye Foreign | 37 | 28 | 26 | 20 | 19 |
| Sedlescombe | 162 | — | — | — | — |
| Whatlington | 37 | 23 | 23 | 20 | 19 |
| <i>Hastings Corporation:</i> | | | | | |
| Brede* | 236 | 238 | — | — | — |
| Camber | 219 | 203 | 85 | — | — |
| Guestling† | 457 | 397 | 397 | 351 | 334 |
| Icklesham‡ | 701 | 708 | 683 | 655 | 502 |
| Ore§ | — | 87 | 86 | 84 | 80 |
| Udimore | 45 | — | — | — | — |
| Westfield | 431 | 314 | 310 | 299 | 290 |
| <i>Heathfield and District Water Company:</i> | | | | | |
| Bodiam | 129 | 128 | 128 | 127 | 127 |
| Brightling | 42 | — | — | — | — |
| Burwash | 595 | 592 | 587 | 584 | 560 |
| Dallington | 61 | — | — | — | — |
| Etchingham | 223 | 222 | 221 | 220 | 218 |
| Hurst Green | 263 | 260 | 259 | 258 | 250 |
| Salhurst | 547 | 545 | 544 | 511 | 470 |
| Ticehurst | 885 | 834 | 824 | 809 | 747 |
| <i>Mid-Kent Water Company:</i> | | | | | |
| Northiam | 457 | 461 | 410 | 402 | 384 |
| <i>Bexhill Corporation:</i> | | | | | |
| Ashburnham | 62 | 50 | 39 | 39 | 38 |
| Catsfield | 191 | 190 | 186 | 183 | 181 |
| Crowhurst | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Totals | 7,852 | 7,207 | 6,652 | 6,289 | 5,881 |

*Including that part of Brede known as Broad Oak.

†Including the parishes of Pett, Fairlight and that part of Guestling known as Three Oaks.

‡Including Winchelsea Town, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour.

§Ore is no longer a separate parish, being incorporated into the parishes of Westfield and Guestling.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM NEW AND SUSPECT SOURCES

| PARISH | WELLS | | SPRINGS | | RAINWATER TANKS | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Satis- factory | Unsatis- factory | Satis- factory | Unsatis- factory | Satis- factory | Unsatis- factory |
| Ashburnham | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Battle | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Beckley | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Brede | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Brightling | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Catsfield | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dallington | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Guestling | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Hurst Green | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Icklesham | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Iden | — | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Mountfield | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Ditto (Chem.) .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Northiam | 1 | 5 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Peasmarsh | 1 | 5 | — | — | — | — |
| Ditto (Chem.) .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pett | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| Sedlescombe | 3 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Udimore | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Westfield | 1 | 4 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Totals | 15 | 29 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 4 |

WATER SAMPLES—COUNCIL HOUSES NOT ON MAIN WATER

| Estate | Type of supply | No. of dwellings | Results of samples | | Action taken |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| | | | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | |
| BECKLEY: | | | | | |
| Four Oaks | Delivered | 8 | — | — | } Permanent notices " BOIL ALL WATER " |
| Burnt House Cotts. | Well | 4 | — | — | |
| Yew Tree Cotts. .. | Well | 4 | — | — | |
| Coombs Cottages .. | Well | 12 | — | — | |
| BRIGHTLING: | | | | | |
| Park View | Well | 4 | — | — | Connected to main 1958 |
| DALLINGTON: | | | | | |
| South Lane | Well | 2 | 1 | 1 | " BOIL ALL WATER " |
| EWHURST: | | | | | |
| Rose's Field | Delivered | 6 | — | — | Connected to main 10th April, 1958 |
| Sidegates | Delivered | 4 | — | — | Ditto |
| Scows Down | Delivered | 2 | — | — | — |
| MOUNTFIELD: | | | | | |
| Brickyard Cotts. .. | Delivered | 2 | 3 | — | — |
| Castle Gardens | Well | 2 | 3 | — | Will be connected to main in 1959 |
| SEDLSCOMBE: | | | | | |
| East View Terrace.. | Well and delivered | 32 | — | — | Connected to main 20th January, 1958 |
| Meadowside | Well | 4 | — | — | Ditto |
| Blacklands | Well and delivered | 10 | — | — | Ditto |
| UDIMORE: | | | | | |
| Lower Cross Cotts... | Spring | 12 | — | — | Connected to main 1958 |

WATER SUPPLIES TO SCHOOLS NOT ON MAIN WATER

| School | Type of Supply | Results of samples | | Action taken |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| | | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | |
| BECKLEY .. | Delivered | — | — | — |
| EWHURST .. | Delivered | — | — | Connected to main 22nd May, 1958 |
| MOUNTFIELD .. | (a) Well (b) Delivered | — | — | Will be connected to main 1959 |
| SEDLSCOMBE .. | Delivered | — | — | Connected to main 7th July, 1958 |
| STAPLECROSS .. | Delivered | 1 | — | Connected to main August, 1958 |
| One Private School .. | Spring | 1 | 1 | Will be connected to main 1959 |

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

BATTLE.

The Council were still awaiting the preliminary survey from their Consulting Engineers.

FAIRLIGHT.

In April, 1958, this scheme was completed. The Council decided to take advantage of the Contractors' presence and sewer the adjacent Firchills area, work commenced in June, 1957, and was completed in May, 1958.

EWHURST (STAPLECROSS).

Completed November, 1958.

SALEHURST SEWAGE WORKS IMPROVEMENTS.

Completed October, 1958.

TICEHURST SEWAGE WORKS.

Loan sanction for remedial works to prevent flooding was received from the Ministry in August, 1958.

WINCHELSEA BEACH.

Following Ministerial approval tenders were invited in November, 1958.

BREDE AND BROAD OAK.

A scheme was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers and submitted to the Ministry for approval in September, 1958.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Council has one cesspool emptier which experiences a continuous heavy demand during the summer months, involving much overtime.

Bathrooms are now an integral part of all houses; it would appear therefore that the cesspool is outmoded and ineffectual in dealing with the extra load and should be dismissed as a relic of the past.

Where this type of drainage is already in being and there is no alternative method of approach either by connection to a main sewerage system or individual septic tank construction, then it must perforce be accepted.

In new building it would appear to be an anachronism to install a cesspool, any application showing this type of drainage system should be subjected to the closest scrutiny.

NUMBER OF LOADS REMOVED

| Month | | | | Private | | Local Authority | | Total | |
|-----------|----|----|------|---------|-------|-----------------|-----|---------|-------|
| January | .. | .. | .. | (58) | 82 | (3) | 7 | (61) | 89 |
| February | .. | .. | .. | (73) | 95 | (10) | 7 | (83) | 102 |
| March | .. | .. | .. | (85) | 95 | (6) | 12 | (91) | 107 |
| April | .. | .. | .. | (107) | 116 | (12) | 27 | (119) | 143 |
| May | .. | .. | .. | (158) | 137 | (7) | 41 | (165) | 178 |
| June | .. | .. | .. | (74) | 131 | (47) | 31 | (121) | 162 |
| July | .. | .. | .. | (102) | 141 | (28) | 49 | (130) | 190 |
| August | .. | .. | .. | (95) | 91 | (52) | 46 | (147) | 137 |
| September | .. | .. | .. | (88) | 128 | (20) | 27 | (108) | 155 |
| October | .. | .. | .. | (96) | 127 | (18) | 8 | (114) | 135 |
| November | .. | .. | .. | (76) | 86 | (7) | 27 | (83) | 113 |
| December | .. | .. | | (76) | 93 | (10) | 18 | (86) | 111 |
| | | | | (1,088) | 1,322 | (220) | 300 | (1,308) | 1,622 |

For comparison the figures for 1957 are given in parentheses for each month.

COLLECTION AND SALVAGE OF HOUSE REFUSE

The service operated smoothly throughout the year.

A fortnightly collection was achieved, even in the remote, scattered areas. More frequent collections were made where possible, but there is no doubt that caravan sites, hotels and food premises merit extra attention.

There is a small but insistent demand for a weekly collection and I am not unsympathetic to this view. The economics of collecting refuse in a widely dispersed rural area has been the limiting factor. While engaged in large capital schemes involving increased rates, the reluctance of the Council to add to this load is understandable.

The two tips are regularly sprayed against flies and treated by the Council's rat catcher periodically. Both tips are properly controlled.

SALVAGE

The results of the year's collection are summarised below:

| Material | Tons | Cwt. | Qr. | Lb. | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| Mixed waste paper .. | 45 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 252 | 19 | 9 |
| Ferrous metal .. | 13 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 69 | 10 | 0 |
| Non-ferrous metals .. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 282 | 15 | 6 |
| Rags | 6 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 95 | 7 | 0 |
| | | | | | £700 | 12 | 3 |

LITTER ACT, 1958

Litter is the end result, in large measure, of wrapped ice cream, picnic meals, packaged foods and cigarette cartons, plus the internal combustion engine (in its varied guises), bringing the countryside to the doorstep of the people.

This combination has resulted in a universal scourge of filth which contaminates the most desirable grass verges, creating foci of infection for the breeding of disease and danger from broken bottles, etc.

An understandable urge to get out and enjoy the health-giving properties of seaside and country must not be discouraged in our efforts to eliminate this offensive habit of indiscriminate scattering of refuse.

Once again we are confronted with a problem analagous in some degree to other addictions. The adult who actively contributes to this problem is apparently impervious to exhortation, and leads his family blissfully and without any consciousness of guilt into copying his anti-social actions.

Litter bins, although obviously helpful, are not the sole solution. The rigour of the law is a deterrent, but too difficult to administer. It would appear that once more we have to think in terms of education of the young at school, and so devise the indoctrination of litter-consciousness that anyone who indulges in this obnoxious practice will be considered to be socially inferior.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN BATTLE RURAL DISTRICT

Public conveniences with wash-basins are provided by the Council at:

- The Abbey Green, Battle,
- Camber, East,
- Camber, Central,
- Camber, West,
- Pett Level,
- Winchelsea Beach.

By arrangement with the brewers, the Council contribute to the cost of the public convenience at the New Inn, Winchelsea Town.

HOUSING

The following information is in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health:

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

| | | |
|---|---------|-----|
| (i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) | | 228 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose | .. | 982 |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| (ii) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932 | 79 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for this purpose .. | 98 |
| (iii) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 27 |
| (iv) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 147 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 100 |
|---|-----|

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| (i) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) | By owners | Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners .. | Nil |
| (iii) | Number of dwelling-houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority | Nil |

(B) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:*

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| (i) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. | Nil |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (By owners) | 3 |

(C) *Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

| | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Number of Representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation | 27 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (iii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |
| (iv) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of undertakings accepted from owners | 10 |
| (v) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners which have since been made fit | 9 |

(D) *Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:* .. Nil(E) *Proceedings under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957.*

Demolition Orders revoked following reconstruction .. Nil

HOUSING

The Housing Committee and their Housing Manager (Mr. L. B. Harvey) have adopted a most helpful and enlightened attitude towards rehousing on public health grounds, and recommendations from the Public Health Committee have received the utmost consideration.

There has been the closest liaison between the departments in ensuring that the individual unfit house does not become a vehicle for rehousing.

Where an applicant is found by the Housing Department to be living in a dwelling which is suspect, the Public Health Department is notified and the house inspected by a Public Health Inspector. If considered to be Section 16 (Housing Act, 1957) it is "represented" and the necessary action is taken to ensure demolition, or an undertaking is accepted from the owner not to relet until made fit for human habitation according to the Council's standards.

A difficulty arises when a clear-cut decision cannot be made, and although the living conditions are not desirable the statutory requirements for "representation" cannot be fulfilled. If the Housing Committee was to rehouse, another family could enter into residence and be subject to the same undesirable influences that affected the former tenants. There is thus an understandable reluctance on the part of the Housing Committee to rehouse from this type of property, so these luckless but usually deserving tenants must continue to eke out their existence in substandard accommodation, without hope.

The Housing Act, 1957, Section 113(2) states: " The local authority shall secure that in the selection of their tenants a reasonable preference is given to persons who are occupying insanitary or overcrowded houses, have large families or are living under unsatisfactory housing conditions."

With the advent of the (1959) Standard improvement grant and the existing Discretionary grant it is hoped that some owners may agree, albeit informally, to do the necessary improvements before reletting. I feel strongly that this field should be explored and the opportunity grasped to bring these houses up to present-day standards and requirements.

If administered with sympathy and intelligence, the improvement grant could be a great social measure making a potent contribution to the well-being of these sorely tried families, particularly in the field of the preservation of mental health within the family unit. The frustration engendered by poor living conditions exert a cumulative strain on the stability of the housewife and mother with resultant unfortunate repercussions throughout the whole family.

Herewith definition of the two grants referred to above:

- (1) The new (1959) Standard Grant under which house owners and certain leaseholders can obtain, as a right, half the cost, up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements—a bath or shower, a wash-hand basin, a water closet, a hot-water system and a food store.
- (2) The existing Discretionary Grant, under which up to half the estimated cost of more extensive improvements may be paid, at the discretion of the local Council, subject to a maximum grant of £400. For conversion of houses into flats, the maximum grant will be £400 for each flat so provided.

An excellent explanatory leaflet has been prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and may be obtained from the Council Offices on request.

I hope the greatest publicity will be given to making the existence of these grants known to interested persons throughout the District.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

| | | |
|--|---------|----|
| Properties investigated in 1958 for Improvement Grants.. | .. | 88 |
| Applications for Grant received | | 60 |
| Applications withdrawn | | 6 |
| Applications refused (property did not conform to standards laid down) | | 4 |
| Properties approved for Grants | | 50 |

Analysis of the 50 properties where grants were made reveals that:

All were for improvements and none related to conversions.

| | |
|--|----|
| Owner/occupier | 14 |
| Dwellings for agricultural workers | 29 |
| Occupied by statutory tenants, or vacant and intended for letting | 7 |
| Total amount of grants approved in 1958 .. £14,333 19s. 1d. | |
| Average grant per dwelling £286 13s. 7d. | |
| Number of applications approved and completed in 1958 .. | 21 |
| No. of applications approved in previous years and completed in 1958 | 17 |

THE RENT ACT, 1957

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

| | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of applications for certificates | 12 |
| (2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates | Nil |
| (3) Number of decisions to issue certificates | 12 |
| (a) in respect of some, but not all defects | 4 |
| (b) in respect of all defects | 8 |
| (4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule | 9 |
| (5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule | Nil |
| (6) Number of Certificates issued | 8 |

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

| | |
|---|-----|
| (7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates | 5 |
| (8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates.. .. . | Nil |
| (9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objections | Nil |
| (10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority | 3 |

HOUSING PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| 1939 | 433 |
| 1946 | 437 |
| 1947 | 540 |
| 1957 | 1,326 |
| 1958 | 1,331 |

1,292 houses have main water supplies and 39 have other supplies as detailed on page 36. Fifty-seven houses are without water closets.

43 families were rehoused during 1958 (actual number of persons 139), at the end of the year 438 applicants were on the Register.

Basic Council House Improvements during 1958

Number of houses connected to main water 72

Number of houses provided with water closets 6

It is satisfactory to note that as sewerage schemes and main water supplies become available, the Council's houses in the area are given these necessary amenities.

Rents and Arrears

The integrity and stability of the present-day Council house tenant is exemplified by the following table:

| <i>Year ending</i> | <i>Total rent with rates collectible</i> | | | <i>Percentage of arrears</i> |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| | <i>£</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> | |
| 31st March, 1951 | 43,238 | 8 | 1 | .29 |
| 31st March, 1952 | 52,393 | 12 | 10 | .105 |
| 31st March, 1953 | 58,755 | 2 | 5 | .004 |
| 31st March, 1954 | 66,918 | 9 | 10 | .02 |
| 31st March, 1955 | 70,307 | 7 | 6 | .05 |
| 31st March, 1956 | 76,274 | 2 | 9 | .06 |
| 31st March, 1957 | 96,711 | 7 | 11 | .058 |
| 31st March, 1958 | 109,480 | 7 | 0 | .03 |
| 31st March, 1959 | 113,650 | 18 | 9 | .077 |

Rent Rebate Scheme

In order to alleviate cases of hardship, the Council operate a Rent Rebate Scheme which resulted in a collective rebate of approximately £2,270 as against £4,375 in 1957.

NEW DWELLINGS

New Dwellings Erected during 1958:

(a) By the Council: Nil

(b) By private enterprise 88 houses

Conversions to dwelling-houses resulting in 8 new units.

Dwellings in Course of Erection, 31st December, 1958:

(a) By the Council 18 houses

(b) By private enterprise 53 houses

**COMPARATIVE TABLE—PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

| | | | | PRIVATE ENTERPRISE | | LOCAL AUTHORITY NEW DWELLINGS |
|------|----|----|----|--------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | New dwellings | Conversions | |
| 1949 | .. | .. | .. | 54 | 7 | 48 |
| 1950 | .. | .. | .. | 37 | 9 | 85 |
| 1951 | .. | .. | .. | 25 | 13 | 64 |
| 1952 | .. | .. | .. | 37 | 13 | 98 |
| 1953 | .. | .. | .. | 86 | 6 | 90 |
| 1954 | .. | .. | .. | 90 | 14 | 48 |
| 1955 | .. | .. | .. | 76 | 8 | 73 |
| 1956 | .. | .. | .. | 64 | 23 | 72 |
| 1957 | .. | .. | .. | 61 | 7 | 52 |
| 1958 | .. | .. | .. | 88 | 8 | Nil |

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravans are recorded on entry and kept under observation throughout their stay.

Rigorous enforcement of the Public Health Act is necessary to preserve the health of the people who have been attracted to this delightful coast.

| <i>Caravan Sites</i> | <i>Number licensed</i> |
|--|------------------------|
| Beauport Caravan Park, Battle | 100 |
| Crowhurst Park Caravan Park, Battle | 250 |
| Camber Caravan Park, Camber | 100 |
| Silver Sands Caravan Park, Camber | 250 |
| Coghurst Hall Caravan Park, Guestling | 100 |
| Lordine Court Caravan Park, Ewhurst | 40 |
| Devonia Caravan Park, Iden | 20 |
| Cock Inn Caravan Park, Peasmarsh | 20 |
| Caravan Park, Pett Level, Pett | 30 |
| Rye Bay Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach | 205 |
| White Lodge Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach | 20 |
| Winchelsea Sands Caravan Park, Winchelsea Beach | 150 |

VISITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING 1958

Subject:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Drainage and sewage disposal | 1,526 |
| Water supplies | 515 |
| Milk and dairies | 42 |
| Building inspections | 1,831 |
| Hop-pickers' dwellings | 18 |
| Infectious diseases | 99 |
| Food premises | 98 |
| Housing and Public Health Acts | 515 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Improvement Grants.. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 349 |
| Moveable dwellings .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40 |
| Nuisances .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 236 |
| Verminous premises .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 34 |
| Factories and workshops | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Schools.. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Slaughterhouses .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 453 |
| Public Cleansing .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 61 |
| Miscellaneous .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 229 |
| Petroleum Regulations | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 141 |
| Rent Act, 1957 .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 118 |
| Total .. | | | | | | | 6,315 |

INDUSTRIES

The numbers engaged in the main industries located in the District are given in the table below.

| | At 31st December, 1958 | | | At 31st December 1957 Total |
|--|------------------------|--------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | |
| Bakery .. | 18 | 11 | 29 | 45 |
| Beach works .. | 45 | 1 | 46 | 47 |
| Building works .. | 542 | 17 | 559 | 479 |
| Bus and Coach Operators.. | 21 | 3 | 24 | 25 |
| Cattle market .. | 8 | 3 | 11 | 13 |
| Coal merchants .. | 24 | 2 | 26 | — |
| Concrete works .. | 80 | 8 | 88 | 83 |
| Egg packing station .. | 18 | 20 | 38 | 40 |
| Engineering works .. | 365 | 52 | 417 | 260 |
| Entertainments .. | 3 | 4 | 7 | — |
| Fencing contractors .. | 12 | 1 | 13 | 20 |
| Flour mills .. | 59 | 20 | 79 | 73 |
| Gypsum mines .. | 549 | 17 | 556 | 583 |
| Hop gardens (permanent staff—Guinness's) | 116 | 5 | 121 | 121 |
| Hotels .. | 19 | 17 | 36 | — |
| Jam factory.. | 21 | 31 | 52 | 51 |
| Joinery works .. | 19 | 1 | 20 | 20 |
| Laundries .. | 14 | 52 | 66 | 67 |
| Oil refining .. | 11 | — | 11 | 6 |
| Printing works .. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Public works contractors .. | 4 | — | 4 | 4 |
| Sawmills .. | 71 | 3 | 74 | 74 |
| Sports goods manufacturers .. | 28 | 9 | 37 | 42 |
| Sports ground contractors .. | 30 | 3 | 33 | 34 |
| Wooden toy manufacturers .. | 13 | 16 | 29 | 30 |

Agricultural Workers

It is not possible to give the numbers of agricultural workers in Battle Rural District as a separate entity. In the area covered by Hastings County Borough, the Boroughs of Bexhill and Rye, and Battle Rural District (excluding Burwash and Ticehurst), there were in June, 1958, 1,858 men and 451 women (total 2,309) engaged in agricultural work.

The comparable figures for 1957 were 2,160 men and 493 women (total 2,653).

This exemplifies the present trend of the drift from the land to industry which might have been accentuated by more versatile machinery.

Hop-pickers' Camps

The traditional trek of Londoners to the Guinness Hop Gardens was repeated towards the end of August and lasted the usual three to four weeks. A holiday atmosphere was evident, and although numbers were similar to past years, the machine is supplementing the average picker whose industry is not of the same calibre as his forbears.

The health of the pickers was good and they appeared to benefit from the amenities provided for them.

The medical service provided by Messrs. Guinness Hop Farms Ltd. included a resident doctor, nurses, a small sick bay and an ambulance. This well integrated medical unit was much appreciated by the 2,183 adult and 892 child pickers.

The machine plus non-resident pickers is becoming more usual on the smaller farms.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Four inspections under the Factories Act, 1937, were made during 1958.

There was one outworker under Section 110(1)(c), conditions were satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ one rat-catcher, trained to use modern methods, and this man's work has proved most effective. Routine visits are made to slaughterhouses and any Council properties, such as sewage works, which are liable to infestation.

Permanent baiting points are maintained at the principal refuse tips, and the public sewers are treated annually in accordance with the routine approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The following table summarises the results of the operator's work during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1959:

| | TYPE OF PROPERTY | | | | Total |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------|
| | Local Authority | Dwell- ing houses | Agri- cultural | All other (including business and industrial) | |
| I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District | 33 | 10,680 | Approx. 1,101 | 1,507 | 13,321 |
| II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority as a result of | (a) 9 | 124 | 3 | 36 | 172 |
| (a) notification | (b) 24 | 323 | 130 | 108 | 585 |
| (b) Survey under the Act | (c) — | — | — | 98 | 98 |
| (c) otherwise | | | | | |
| III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats | Major 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 14 |
| | Minor 10 | 139 | 3 | 16 | 168 |
| IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by mice | Major — | 5 | — | 9 | 14 |
| | Minor — | 19 | — | 4 | 23 |
| V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority | 14 | 166 | 6 | 33 | 219 |

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One application received in respect of the sale of birds and fish.
One licence granted.

8

METEOROLOGY

RAINFALL FIGURES TAKEN AT BATTLE WATER WORKS

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|--|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Number of days on which rain fell | 151 | 160 | 175 |
| Longest period of drought | 17 days | 16 days | None recorded |
| Periods of drought .. | 7th-23rd Feb. (inclusive) | 9th-24th April (inclusive) and 30th Sept.-15th Oct. (inclusive) | None recorded |

Comparison with previous years is given in the following table:

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----------------------|
| <i>Year</i> | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Total rainfall</i> |
| 1949 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27.3 inches |
| 1950 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 32.1 inches |
| 1951 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 45.0 inches |
| 1952 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35.1 inches |
| 1953 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26.1 inches |
| 1954 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37.0 inches |
| 1955 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 32.7 inches |
| 1956 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30.0 inches |
| 1957 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 32.5 inches |
| 1958 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 38.1 inches |

TEMPERATURE

| | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Highest recorded temperature.. | 85° 26th July 23rd Aug. | 95° 1st July | 86° 9th July |
| Lowest recorded temperature.. | 2° 3rd Feb. | 18° 17th Feb. | 6° 23rd Jan. |

